

**2012 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS
MICKELSEN SHEEP ALLOTMENTS
WEBB CREEK SHEEP ALLOTMENT &
BUCKSKIN SHEEP ALLOTMENT**

This is your Annual Operating Instruction for the Webb Creek and Buckskin Sheep Allotments. This Plan is part of your Term Grazing Permit as specified in Part 2, Number 8 (a) of your permit.

As part of the Terms & Conditions of your Permit, Part 2 Number 8 (i), all range improvements and maintenance on water developments must be completed before sheep enter the forest.

Before livestock enter the forest, your grazing fees must be paid and notice received in this office. Failure to follow this procedure is a violation of your permit.

*Mickelsen sheep will bring in their band of sheep approximately late-May to graze the south slopes that have dyers woad and earlier summer feed. The band will stay in the Inman Creek area three weeks before moving throughout the remaining areas. *Please note areas of dyers woad infestation to help the USFS better map and document the accomplishments of this area.**

Consideration needs to be given to the boundary conflict at the North Fork of Inman and Inman Pass, so mixing of adjacent sheep bands does not occur.

NUMBER OF LIVESTOCK BY PERMITTEE and PERMITTED NUMBERS

Webb Creek Allotment: Permitted- 1600 HM, 2012 Authorized -1590 HM, 450 sheep: 5/15-8/31
(This is the fifth year to graze dyers woad for weed control in the area)

Buckskin Allotment: Permitted- 2100 HM, 2012 Authorized- 2027 HM, 800 sheep: 6/15-8/31

Specific Standards for:

Stream	Indicator	Standard
McNabb Creek Upper Middle Toponce	Bank Alteration	15%
	AIZ Utilization (area between the stream and upland vegetation)	40%
Webb Creek	Bank Alteration	15%
	AIZ Utilization	30-40%
Hagler Creek Sawmill Creek N. Fork of Inman Creek	Bank Alteration	15%
	AIZ Utilization	30%
Inman Creek	Bank Alteration	15%
	AIZ Utilization	30-40%

PROPER UTILIZATION FOR ALL UNITS

Upland Forage Utilization	Utilization Criteria
Grass and herbaceous species (% dry weight)	Utilization of upland forage species on this allotment should not exceed 50% of key species (Blue Bunch Wheat Grass and Idaho Fescue).
Shrubs (% Annual leader growth)	Utilization in the uplands will vary from 25% to 35% depending on whether it is considered as: winter range, critical winter range, or non-winter range.

Should bank erosion of perennial streams be evident, soil displacement guidelines may also be used. In addition, recreation sites may need to be grazed at a lower level depending on the situation. Any changes in utilization levels for these areas will be cooperatively determined with you at each specific site.

Riparian Forage Utilization	Utilization Criteria
Herbaceous Utilization (AIZ)*	Utilization in the Aquatic Influence Zone at the end of the grazing period will be 30 to 45%. (e.g. poa, redtop, etc).
Stubble Height (AIZ)*	Allowable stubble height measurements in the AIZ will vary between 3 to 6 inches at the end of the grazing period depending on the time of grazing and the condition of the stream.
Stubble Height (Greenline)*	Allowable stubble height measurements, along the greenline, will be 6 inches at the end of the grazing period. (e.g. carex)
Herbaceous Utilization (Greenline)	Utilization at the greenline at the end of the grazing period will not exceed 50% depending on the time of grazing and the condition of the stream.
% Woody Species utilization	Allowable woody utilization 40%
% Cumulative Bank Disturbance (Alteration)	Refers to short term (annual) physical disturbance of alternation of the bank by livestock trampling. Allowable disturbance shall not exceed 20%.

GRAZING MANAGEMENT

Watering on live water is limited to 1 hour per day. Instruct your herder to move sheep to water earlier in the day to avoid noon shade-up. Once sheep have watered, herder must move sheep off-site. Do not allow your sheep to water more than once in any given location.

"Once-over" grazing use and open herding should be practiced when it is possible. Bed grounds should not be used in excess of one night when possible.

When salting, please salt in a different place from last year. We would prefer that salt be applied on rocky areas, and avoid salting steep, east facing slopes where snow cornices build-up. Please do not bed or salt sheep near springs or running water.

All camps should have a serviceable ax and shovel for fire control. Please keep your camps clean and pack out your refuse.

ROTATIONAL USE

The sheep enter the allotment from the west end and work towards higher country. Instruct your herder to avoid bedding sheep within 600 feet of the Webb Canyon Yurt.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

Any change that deviates from this Annual Operation Instruction must be made in advance and be in writing by the District Ranger.

A Forest closure order exists for any hay or straw used in association with your permit will be certified and tagged as noxious weed, or noxious weed seed free as directed by the order. Please notify our office of any noxious weed populations on your allotments so that we can send a crew out to map and treat them.

Please contact Hans Bastian at 236-7526 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jeffery J. Hammes

JEFFERY J. HAMMES
Westside District Ranger

NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE
Todd Mickelsen	<i>Meeting with Todd Mickelsen via telephone</i>	4/23/2012